

BARREN FIG TREE — DEFILED TEMPLE.

Mark 11:12-25—Aug. 9.

"By their fruits ye shall know them."—Mat. these 7:20.

JESUS' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was past. After spending a portion of the day in the Holy City, He returned to Bethany. Going to the city the next morning, He noted a fig tree by the wayside, bearing plenty of leaves. He approached it, but found no figs. The good show of leaves was deceptive. Then He put a curse, a blight, upon the tree, declaring that it should not bear fruit forever or to a completion.

Bible students believe that they now see a deep significance in this incident. They believe that the fig tree was used as a type of the Jewish nation; and that the blight upon the tree because of unfruitfulness corresponded exactly to their pronounced the day before upon that nation because of its unfruitfulness.

On the day previous, Jesus had said to the Jewish nation, "Ye shall see Me no more until that Day." He declared that this tree would be blighted to the end of the *age*, or *Age*. Again, when speaking to His disciples respecting the end of this Age, Jesus declared, "When ye shall see the fig tree putting forth leaves, then know that summer is nigh"—that is, the winter, the blight time, of Israel and *The Barren Fig Tree* of the world, is at an end. In other words, one of the signs of a New Dispensation will be the indications of life, hope, promise, amongst the Jews.

Significance of Zionism.

These same Bible students point to the revival of hope amongst the Jewish people, as especially manifested by Zionism, and declare that this return of hope and faith to the Jews respecting their land and the Divine promises is exactly in line with prophecy. They point to just 40 as in process of fulfillment: "Comfort ye My people, with your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her appointed time is accomplished; that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

These Bible students hold that Ezekiel's prophecy of the valley of dry bones does not refer to a literal resurrection, but to the revival of Israel's hopes in the Divine promises. This is in harmony with the Prophets declaration, "These bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, Our bones are dried; our hope is lost; we are cut off from our parts."—Ezekiel 37:1-11.

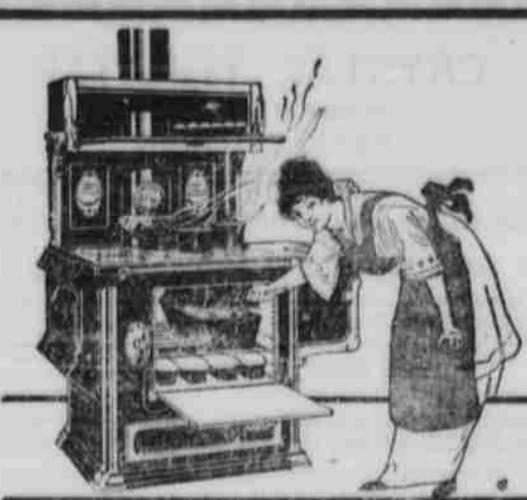
These Bible students declare that St. Paul teaches that the Jewish nation was typically represented by Ishmael, Hagar's son, (Galatians 4:22-31.) As Hagar and Ishmael were outcast for a time, so the Law Covenant and the Jews have been cut off from Divine favor only temporarily. Ishmael had almost fainted for thirst in the wilderness, but was revived by the angel of the Lord, who pointed out a spring of water. This also is typical. Jewish hopes of God's favor had almost died. Zionism is the wellspring which is reviving Israel from death as a people. Under Messiah's Kingdom, soon to be established on the spirit plane, the Jews will receive a great blessing—on the earthly plane.

Cleansing the Temple.

Jesus and His disciples proceeded to Jerusalem and went directly to the Temple. There He assumed authority and began to cast out the traders with out ceremony. An other account of this incident tells us that in this cleansing of the Temple Jesus used a scourge of small cords. All this was of double sig. significance:

(1) Primarily, it had to do with this time.

(2) Secondly, it typified a cleaning of the antitypical Temple, due, we believe, in our day.



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KNOW THY COUNTRY

II—Railroads

In discussing the commercial achievements of this great age, we shall approach the subject as the historian chronicling events. This series will endeavor to record in writing the supremacy of American men and industries in the world's affairs and perpetuate an appreciation of our marvelous industrial achievements by presenting simple facts, figures and comparisons that are overpowering in their convictions.

America holds her proud place among the nations of the earth today on account of her supremacy in transportation facilities. The mighty minds of the age are engaged in the problem of transportation, and the greatest men in the history of the world's commerce are at the head of the transportation systems of the United States.

In the discussion of transportation, let us consider separately our Railways, Telegraph and Telephones, Express, Public Highways, Steamships, Street Railways, Interurban and other forms of transportation, and this article will deal with railroads.

The United States has the largest mileage, the best service, the cheapest rates, pays labor the highest wages, and we have the most efficient management of the railways of the world. They stand as a monument to the native genius of our marvelous builders, and most of the railroads in foreign countries have been built under American orders.

The railroads represent a larger investment of capital than any other branch of human activity. The mileage in the United States exceeds

The average yearly pay of all railroad employees in the principal countries is as follows: United States \$727, Germany \$392, Italy \$345, Austria \$322, Great Britain \$279, France \$260 and Russia \$204.

About 30 per cent, or 188,000 miles,

of the railways of the world are government owned. About half the railway mileage of Europe is government owned.

A comparison of the economy, to

time and money and the convenience in travel, will be made in a later article.

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